

In the Claims:

Amend claims 1 and 9 as follows:

1.(currently amended) A knife assembly comprising:

a knife having spaced-apart first and second sides defining a thickness of the knife;

a base;

a wearshoe; and

an upper clamping member, ~~said upper clamping member~~ for mounting to one side of said base and said wearshoe for mounting to an opposite side of said base, said upper clamping member and said wearshoe having corresponding portions for receiving said first and second sides of said knife, respectively, said portions spaced apart by a gap that is greater than said thickness so that said knife is not clamped between said portions, the apparatus adapted for elastically deflecting said upper clamping member to bring said portions closer together and narrow said gap until sufficient deflection is produced to entirely close said gap whereupon said portions clamp the knife so as to provide a gap between a first portion of said upper clamping member that is cantilevered from said base, said first portion for receiving said first side of said knife, and a corresponding portion of said wearshoe for receiving said second

~~side of said knife, said gap being greater than said thickness, the apparatus adapted for elastically deflecting said upper clamping member so as to close said gap and bring said first portion of said upper clamping member into contact with said first side of said knife, for clamping the knife between said upper clamping member and said wearshoe.~~

2.(cancelled)

3.(previously presented) The assembly of claim 1, further comprising at least one bolt mounting said wearshoe and base together, wherein said wearshoe and said base include cooperatively interlocking portions adapted to substantially prevent movement of said base, relative to said wearshoe, in a first direction toward the knife and perpendicular to the axis of said bolt, said interlocking portions meeting so as to define an angle ϕ with respect to said first direction that is in the range 45 - 60 degrees.

4.(previously presented) The assembly of claim 3, wherein said wearshoe and said base include cooperatively ramping portions defining an angle θ inclined with respect to said first direction and adapted to resist movement of said base, relative to said wearshoe, in a second direction opposite to said first direction.

5.(previously presented) The assembly of claim 1, further comprising at least one bolt mounting said wearshoe and base together, wherein said wearshoe and said base include

cooperatively ramping portions adapted to substantially prevent movement of said base, relative to said wearshoe, in a direction away from the knife and perpendicular to the axis of said bolt, said ramping portions defining an angle θ inclined with respect to said direction.

6. (cancelled)

7.(previously presented) The ring slicer of claim 20, wherein said wearshoe and said base include cooperatively ramping portions defining an angle θ inclined with respect to said first direction and adapted to resist movement of said base, relative to said wearshoe, in a second direction opposite said first direction.

8.(cancelled)

9.(currently amended) An apparatus for cutting an article of wood, comprising:

a ring assembly comprising two end plates for rotation about an axis of rotation;

and

at least two shoulder bolts; and

a plurality of knife assemblies, each assembly comprising an elongate knife having a cutting edge extending along an elongate axis, a clamp for clamping the knife, and a base for supporting at least a portion of said clamp, said

assemblies for installation between said end plates such that the shoulder portions of said at least two shoulder bolts extend through one of said end plates into said base.

10.(previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein each said clamp includes an upper clamping member for mounting to the corresponding base so that a portion of the upper clamping member is cantilevered therefrom, wherein the upper clamping member includes provision for at least one bolt extending through said portion into the base such that tightening the bolt elastically deflects said upper clamping member to bring the upper clamping member into contact with one side of the corresponding knife.

11.(previously presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein each said clamp further includes a wearshoe for mounting to said base and supporting the other side of the corresponding knife.

12.(cancelled)

13.(cancelled)

14.(cancelled)

15.(cancelled)

16.(cancelled)

17.(original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said knife includes dual cutting-edges.

18. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said angle θ is about 5 degrees.

19. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said angle θ is about 5 degrees.

20. (previously presented) A ring slicer, comprising:

a base;

a wearshoe;

at least one bolt mounting said wearshoe and base together at one side of said base; and

an upper clamping member for mounting engagement with said base at an opposite side of said base for clamping the knife between said upper clamping member and said wearshoe, wherein said wearshoe and said base include cooperatively interlocking portions adapted to substantially prevent movement of said base, relative to said wearshoe, in a first direction toward the knife and perpendicular to the axis of said bolt, said interlocking portions meeting so as to define an angle ϕ with respect to said first direction that is in the range 45 - 60 degrees.

21. (previously presented) A ring slicer, comprising:

a base;

a wearshoe;

at least one bolt mounting said wearshoe and base together at one side of said base; and

an upper clamping member for mounting engagement with said base at an opposite side of said base for clamping the knife between said upper clamping member and said wearshoe, wherein said wearshoe and said base include cooperatively ramping portions adapted to substantially prevent movement of said base, relative to said wearshoe, in a first direction away from the knife and perpendicular to the axis of said bolt, said ramping portions defining an angle θ inclined with respect to said first direction about 5 degrees.

22. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising at least one bolt mounting said wearshoe and base together, wherein, for each said clamp, said wearshoe and base include cooperatively interlocking portions adapted to substantially prevent movement of said base, relative to said wearshoe, in a first direction toward the knife and perpendicular to the axis of said bolt, said interlocking portions meeting so as to define an angle ϕ with respect to said first direction that is in the range 45 - 60 degrees.

23. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said wearshoe and said base include cooperatively ramping portions defining an angle θ inclined with respect to said first direction and adapted to substantially prevent movement of said base, relative to said wearshoe, in a second direction opposite said first direction.

24. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said angle θ is about 5 degrees.

25. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising at least one bolt mounting said wearshoe and base together, wherein, for each said clamp, said wearshoe and base include cooperatively ramping portions adapted to substantially prevent movement of said base, relative to said wearshoe, in a direction away from the knife and perpendicular to the axis of said bolt, said ramping portions defining an angle θ inclined with respect to said direction.

26. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said angle θ is about 5 degrees.

27. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said knife includes dual cutting-edges.

28. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said knife includes dual cutting-edges.